

ture of defence was of course over-ruled, and the Jury directed that the offense was murder, if the prisoner was of sound mind. Judge Battle writes to Mrs. B. that the prosecution was conducted with firmness and ability and a better case made out for the prisoner than he had previously supposed possible.

I know how very busy you must be at present, and yet I suppose you cannot deny yourself the privilege of reading the particulars of domestic incidents, without parallel, or resemblance in our previous history.

When in Raleigh the other day, I saw on Gov. Reid's table the file of papers obtained by you in Cabarrus, in relation to the Mecklenburg Declaration. Did you intend to leave them? I suppose not, and if I am right in my conjecture, beg to be authorized to reclaim them, either to be retained for you, or transferred to the Historical Society, as you may direct. They will, in all probability be lost, or abstracted, before a great while, if permitted to remain where they are.

*From Sophia G. Witherspoon.*

U.

Brookland,

November 27th., 1851.

My Dear Brother

I received your affectionate favour a few weeks since, for which I thank you kindly—*but regret* even yet, the event that caused you to write. To lose a Brother, such a one as Brother James, is no ordinary loss, he was indeed one who could give counsel, & that in such kind & affectionate way, & felt so much interest in the welfare of all his immediate relations. His loss will be long felt by his relations and friends. It admonishes me that our once numerous family are passing off in rapid succession, & that ere long (I too must go hence) I am the only member of the family who has attained 60 years.

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My family are all grown. Louisa, my younger child, expects to be married the next month to a Dr. Anderson, of Mobile, all 3 of my Daughters will live in that place, so does Sidney & Alfred. Dr. Witherspoon & myself expect to spend our winters with our children in Mobile, & our summers on the Plantation with